

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, UNGA, NH
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 APPROVES REPORT ON NEW
HEBRIDES

REF: (A) SUVA 1485, (B) SUVA 1355,
(C) STATE 195962, (D) STATE 200616

1. SUMMARY. THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) COMPLETED
CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW HEBRIDES ON AUGUST 16 WITH
ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS OF THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES (A/AC.109/L.1246)
AS AMENDED ORALLY BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE RAPPORTEUR.
THE COMMITTEE HEARD STATEMENTS BY TWO PETITIONERS
FROM THE VANUAAKU PATI, WALTER LINI, PRESIDENT, AND
BARAK T. SOPE, SECRETARY-GENERAL. JACQUES CARLOT,
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEW HEBRIDES REPRESENTATIVE
ASSEMBLY, ALSO SPOKE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03236 211702Z

2. THE NEW HEBRIDES REPORT APPROVED BY THE C-24
IN GENERAL FOLLOWS THE LINES OF LAST YEAR'S WITH THE
ADDITION OF A PROVISION PARTICULARLY WELCOMING THE
JOINT COMMITMENT OF THE ADMINISTERING POWERS TO
INDEPENDENCE AS REITERATED IN THEIR LETTER OF
11 APRIL 1978. IT NOTES THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
THE NEW HEBRIDES GOVERNMENT AND VANUAAKU PATI HAD

RESULTED IN AGREEMENT FOR NEW ELECTIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, FOLLOWING A CENSUS LATER IN 1978, AS WELL AS THE NEED FOR ESTABLISHING MACHINERY TO RESOLVE OTHER OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES. THE COMMITTEE AGAIN SUGGESTS A VISITING MISSION TO THE TERRITORY AND CALLS ON THE ADMINISTERING POWERS TO FACILITATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW HEBRIDEAN PUBLIC SERVICE.

3. IN HIS STATEMENT ON AUGUST 15, LINI OUTLINED THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS THE "POLITICAL IMPASSE" ON THE ISLANDS. HE ELABORATED ON THE DIFFERENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS ESTABLISHED BY FRANCE AND BRITAIN AND CHARACTERIZED THE BRITISH AS PRO-INDEPENDENCE AND FRANCE AS ANTI-INDEPENDENCE UNTIL JULY 1977. RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS CONCERNING THE VANUAAKU PATI'S RELATIONS WITH THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WERE OUTLINED. CONCLUDING, LINI STATED THAT THE "STRUGGLE AGAINST FRENCH AND BRITISH COLONIALISM" COULD NOT BE ISOLATED FROM THE STRUGGLES OF OTHERS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION IN PARTICULAR IN NEW CALEDONIA. BARAK T. SOPE PRESENTED A PETITION URGING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE NOT TO ACCEPT "WITHOUT QUESTION THE BRITISH AND FRENCH PROMISE TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO VANUAAKA BY 1980". HE CLAIMED THAT, "ALTHOUGH NOT A PARTY TO THE PRESENT SO-CALLED NEW HEBRIDES GOVERNMENT, THE VANUAAKA PATI STILL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 03236 211702Z

MAINTAINED A GROWING SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRY." A PRONOUNCED ANTI-FRENCH BIAS WAS EVIDENCED IN A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS, SUCH AS "THE COLONIAL AUTHORITIES, ESPECIALLY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, ARE NOW CARRYING ON A CAMPAIGN OF ENTRENCHING THE PRESENT PUPPET ADMINISTRATION". THE PETITIONER CONCLUDED BY REQUESTING THAT "A FACT-FINDING MISSION BE DISPATCHED TO VANUAAKU IN THE NEAR FUTURE", THE COMMITTEE OF 24 "BRING PRESSURE" ON FRANCE AND THE UK TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENCE IN 1980, AND "BRING PRESSURE ON VANUAAKU AUTHORITIES SO THAT NEW ELECTIONS BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE".

4. CARLOT, A DEPUTY IN THE NEW HEBRIDES REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, EXPLAINED ON AUGUST 16 THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUE, JEAN-MARIE LEYE, HAD NOT INTENDED TO SPEAK BEFORE THE COMMITTEE BUT AFTER THE VANUAAKU PATI STATEMENTS HE FELT IT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SOME CLARIFICATION. HE CONTRADICTED A NUMBER OF THE POINTS RAISED BY LINI AND SOPE AND REGRETTED THAT THE VANUAAKU PATI HAD SEEN FIT "TO BRING UP QUESTIONS UNRELATED TO THE COMMITTEE'S DEBATE WHOSE SOLE OBJECTIVE WAS TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION IN THE NEW HEBRIDES". HE TOLD THE

COMMITTEE THAT THE PROCESS LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE WAS
UNDERWAY AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ALL NEW HEBRIDEANS WOULD
PARTICIPATE.

5. DESPITE INDICATIONS (REF B) THAT LINI AND SOPE
PLANNED TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG
OR A MISSION OFFICER, THE DID NOT DO SO AND DEPARTED
NEW YORK FOR LONDON AUGUST 20. MR. UREGEI OF NEW
CALENDONIA ALSO DID NOT CONTACT US.
LEONARD

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